

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 780

2 INTRODUCED BY D. VILLA

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REGULATING LEAVING UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN MOTOR
5 VEHICLES; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES."

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7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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9 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Short title.** [Sections 1 through 5] may be cited as the "Unattended
10 Children in Motor Vehicles Safety Act".

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12 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of [sections 1 through 5] is to protect innocent
13 children from being injured or killed when left alone in a motor vehicle.

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15 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Definitions.** As used in [sections 1 through 5], unless the context requires
16 otherwise, the following definitions apply:

17 (1) "Motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.

18 (2) "Unattended child" means a child 8 years of age or younger who is not accompanied by another
19 individual who is at least 14 years of age.

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21 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Prohibition on leaving unattended child.** A person may not leave an
22 unattended child in a motor vehicle if:

23 (1) the conditions present a risk to the child's health or safety; or

24 (2) the engine of the motor vehicle is running or the keys to the motor vehicle are left in the motor vehicle.

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26 NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Penalty.** (1) A person who violates [section 4] is subject to a civil penalty
27 as follows:

28 (a) for a first violation, a fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$500; and

29 (b) for a second or subsequent violation, a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000.

30 (2) The fines collected under subsection (1) must be deposited in the general fund of the jurisdiction

1 employing the person who issues a citation.

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3 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 5] are intended to be codified
4 as an integral part of Title 61, chapter 12, and the provisions of Title 61, chapter 12, apply to [sections 1 through
5 5].

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